

I am writing in hopes that perhaps I can finally get the relief I have been seeking through the flawed Unemployment system that has failed many around not only Oregon but the country.

I am a wife and a mother. I am trying to hold myself together day in and day out as I am stepping in as a teacher to my children and trying to teach my children to be strong and not let them feel the fear of the financial burden my husband and myself carry on our shoulders. I am currently on week 10 of claiming benefits with no relief. We are fortunate that my husband is in construction and has continued work as an essential employee however, his income feeds us and that's about it. We were able to get our car payments deferred until this month now its time to make those payments and still have no money to do so. We are a little behind on rent and as we understand that right now we can not legally be evicted our lease is up in July so our landlords could choose to not renew our lease and we do not have the financial means to move.

Long story short, I have been in the restaurant industry for 19 years. I have claimed unemployment ONE time in my life for 2-3 weeks. Prior to COVID-19, On February 20th after 3 years I left my job as an Operations Manager of a Brew Pub. I had been hired on at a restaurant 2 weeks before the mandated shut down by Governor Kate Brown. I immediately applied for Unemployment benefits on 3/17. The CARES act was signed on 3/27 effective 3/29. I had done my research, I understood that I did not make enough in wages to qualify normally. But these were not NORMAL times. My understanding of the CARES act originally is that they would be amendments to the regular unemployment. On 4/23 after going thru a Adjudication I was denied Regular Unemployment. I thought for sure that I would qualify due the the CARES act for "limited work history" so naturally I sent in for an appeal. On 4/29 things finally became a little more clear that these were not amendments to Regular UI but a whole new qualifying process under Pandemic Unemployment Assistance so on 5/3 I applied for PUA. I felt even more helpless as I was confused about the situation I was in. I was waiting for my appeal and also applying for PUA and scared that would prolong receiving any benefits. I did receive notice for a hearing and attended the hearing via telephone on 5/20 even though I knew the correct route for me was PUA, but in survival mode and just trying to follow such an unclear process I felt I was doing the best I could.

As of now, I am waiting on the Judges answer from my appeal or waiting for my PUA application to process. I worry that my appeal that will probably not go in my favor is forcing my PUA application to the bottom of the stack.

I am asking for help. I am in fear of losing our vehicles and home.

Thank you for your time,  
Emelie Batty

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)